

00862.022151

PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 Masaya OGURA et al. ) : Examiner: H. Nguyen  
 Application No.: 09/811,419 ) : Group Art Unit: 2851  
 Filed: March 20, 2001 ) :  
 For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, METHOD )  
 OF MANUFACTURING ) : April 26, 2002  
 SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES AND )  
 PLANT THEREFOR ) :

Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Response to Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application.

No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	15	MINUS	20	= 0	x \$9 \$18	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	2	MINUS	3	= 0	x \$42 \$84	\$0.00
Fee for Multiple Dependent claims \$140/\$280						—
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$0.00

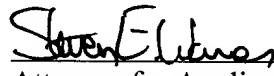


°Verified Statement claiming small entity status is enclosed, if not filed previously.

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- A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed including the additional claims fee.
- Charge \$\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.
- Any prior general authorization to charge an issue fee under 37 CFR 1.18 to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 is hereby revoked. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the fee for a \_\_\_\_\_ month extension is enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_ to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee is enclosed.
- Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Applicants  
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated April 3, 2002.

In the Office Action, the Examiner sets forth a restriction requirement between two groups of claims. Group I, claims 1-10 (and presumably claim 11), is drawn to an exposure apparatus, classified in class 355, subclass 30. Group II, claims 12-15, is drawn to a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device and a plant for manufacturing a semiconductor device, classified in class 430, subclass 311.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of Groups I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination, and have acquired a separate status in the art due to their asserted “divergent subject matter” such that the searches are not coextensive, requiring separate examination. These contentions are respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that the inventions of Groups I and II are so closely related in the field of semiconductor exposure that a proper search of any of the claims would, of necessity, require a search of the others. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously, and that a duplicative search, with possibly inconsistent results, may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained.

Applicants further submit that any nominal burden placed upon the Examiner to search an additional subclass or two, necessary to determine the art relevant to Applicants' overall invention, is significantly outweighed by the public interest in not having to obtain and study several separate patents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering Applicants' invention. The alternative is to proceed with the filing of multiple applications, each consisting of generally the same disclosure, and each being subjected to essentially the same search, perhaps by different Examiners on different occasions. This places an unnecessary burden on both the Patent and Trademark Office and on Applicants.

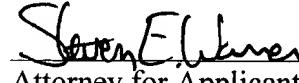
In the interest of economy, for the Office, for the public-at-large and for Applicants, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143,  
Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely  
claims 1-10 and, presumably, claim 11.

Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office  
by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address  
listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney for Applicants  
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